1801 N. First Hamilton, MT 59840 406-363-7100

File Code: 1950-1/2720-3/7510-1

Date: March 13, 2007

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Dear Interested Party:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and is available on request for the Mill Lake Dam Access Project 2007. The Forest Service proposes to authorize Mill Creek Irrigation District (MCID) access to their easement at Mill Lake Dam, with certain terms and conditions, so that MCID may make these facilities safe, consistent with their responsibilities under federal dam safety laws and regulations and consistent with their rights and responsibilities under terms of their easements. The Forest Service would authorize sufficient helicopter access to allow for the work to be done safely and effectively beginning in the early summer 2007 field season. Depending on their final plans, the work is expected to take place through two to three field seasons, which is likely to extend through the 2009 field season.

The project is located in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Township 6 North, Range 23 West, Section 1, Principle Meridian Montana, Ravalli County.

The enclosed document explains details regarding the comment process.

If you would like more information, or a copy of the EA, please call Elizabeth Ballard, Team Leader, at the Stevensville Ranger District (406) 777-5461.

Thank you again for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



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Important Information for People Wishing to Comment on this Project

Public comments are invited on this project. David T. Bull, the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official for this project.

This project is subject to the 2003, comment, and appeal regulations at 36 CFR 215.

Only those who provide comments or other expression of interest during this comment period will be accepted as appellants.

To be timely, comments for this proposed project must be postmarked or received within 30 days after the legal notice is published in the Ravalli Republic.

Comments can be written, faxed, hand delivered, or electronic.

Written comments should be mailed to: Stevensville District Ranger, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main, Stevensville, Montana 59870.

The Stevensville District FAX number is (406) 777-7423.

The Stevensville District telephone number is (406) 777-5461

The Stevensville District office is open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday for those who want to submit hand-delivered comments.

Electronic comments may be sent to **comments-northern-bitterrootstevensville@fs.fed.us**

Acceptable electronic formats are ASCII text, HTML, MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF).

It is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of any form of comment. For electronically mailed comments, the sender may receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation or receipt.

Comments should include: 1) name, address, phone number, and organization represented, if any; 2) title of project on which the comments are being submitted; and 3) substantive comments including specific facts and supporting information for the District Ranger to consider. The names and addresses of people submitting comments will be included as part of the public record.

Each individual or a representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or be prepared to verify their identity upon request.

If you would like more information on this project, please call Elizabeth Ballard, Project Leader, at the Stevensville Ranger District (406) 777-5461.